

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A multifunctional food preparation apparatus for the preparation of food products, comprising:

a preparation chamber having a top and a bottom;

at least one rack within the preparation chamber to support products to be prepared in the apparatus;

a main heat source positioned adjacent the top of the preparation chamber;

a collection pan within the cooking chamber ~~and positioned below~~ underneath substantially all of the at least one rack, ~~said collection pan disposed so as to collect by-~~ products rendered from the food products during preparation;

a steam source ~~positioned~~ below the collection pan;

a flavor generator ~~positioned~~ adjacent the bottom of the preparation chamber below the at least one rack;

at least one air flow path within the preparation chamber to ~~allow for the circulation of~~ circulate air around the at least one rack; and

a programmable controller operatively connected to ~~control~~ the heat source, the steam source and the flavor generator, the controller being programmable to operate any one of the heat source, the steam source and the flavor generator in any

predetermined sequence, and for any predetermined duration ~~for~~ ~~of time to provide~~ optimum preparation and flavoring of the products.

2. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 further comprising an external flue in fluid communication with the preparation chamber, said flue being appropriately dimensioned so as to maintain a predetermined pressure within the preparation chamber.

3. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 2 wherein the flue further comprises a tubular body defining an internal bore, said tubular body having a first end in fluid communication with the preparation chamber and a second end defining an opening into the atmosphere, the internal bore and said opening in said second end of the tubular body each having a predetermined internal diameter that combine to maintain the predetermined pressure within the preparation chamber.

4. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 3 wherein the internal diameter of the internal bore is approximately 2 inches and the internal diameter of the opening in the second end of the tubular body is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.

5. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 4 wherein the preparation chamber has a volume of between approximately 14 cubic feet and approximately 18 cubic feet.

6. (Currently amended) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one air flow path ~~is positioned so as~~ includes at least one vent that ~~to~~ directs heated air ~~below~~ toward the collection pan to maintain the collection pan at a sufficient temperature to retard spoilage of the by-products collected in the collection pan.

7. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one airflow path is positioned so as to direct airflow to the flavor generator.

8. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the steam source further comprises a reservoir and a heat source.

9. (Currently Amended) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 8 wherein the steam source heat source is an electric heating element operatively connected to the controller.

10. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 8 wherein the steam source further comprises a shield positioned over the reservoir.

11. (Previously presented) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the flavor generator further comprises a flavoring receptacle and a heat source.

12. (Currently amended) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 11 wherein the flavor generator heat source further comprises an electric heating element operatively connected to the controller.

13. (Currently amended) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 1 wherein the main heat source further comprises an electric heating element and a fan operatively connected to the controller.

14. - 53. Canceled.

54. (New) A multifunctional food preparation apparatus for the preparation of food products, comprising:

a food product preparation chamber having a top wall, a bottom wall, a first vertical side wall and a second vertical side wall;

a first rack mounting structure on said first vertical side wall defining an airflow pathway and a second rack mounting structure on said second vertical side wall defining an airflow pathway;

at least one rack within the preparation chamber extending between said first rack mounting structure and said second rack mounting structure to support food products to be prepared in the apparatus;

a main heat source positioned adjacent the top wall of the preparation chamber;

a collection pan within the cooking chamber and extending between said first rack mounting structure and said second rack mounting structure below the at least one

rack to collect by-products rendered from the food products during preparation, said collection pan including a spigot;

a steam source below the at least one rack and the collection pan, the steam source having a heating element, a reservoir and a cover;

a smoke generator having a heating element at the bottom of the preparation chamber below the at least one rack and the collection pan; and

a programmable controller operatively connected to the heat source, the steam source and the smoke generator, the controller being programmable to operate any one of the heat source, the steam source and the smoke generator in any predetermined sequence, and for any predetermined duration of time.

55. (New) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 54 wherein said steam source cover is removable.

56. (New) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 54 wherein the controller is operatively connected to the main heat source, the steam source heating element and the smoke generator heating element.

57. (New) The multifunctional food preparation apparatus of claim 54 wherein the airflow path defined by the first rack mounting structure and the airflow path defined by the second rack mounting structure each has at least one vent formed therein adjacent the collection pan.